In the Claims

1.   (Cancelled)

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3 21, further comprising:

forwarding the subsequent request from the load balancer to the selected gateway, the subsequent request including the defined port number of the selected gateway.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, further comprising:

receiving at the load balancer a response to the subsequent request from the selected gateway, the response including the defined port number of the selected gateway;

translating at the load balancer the defined port number of the selected gateway to the private port number associated with the selected gateway.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising:

forwarding the response to the client terminal from the load balancer, the response including the private port number associated with the selected gateway.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 21, further comprising:

maintaining an association between the client terminal and the selected gateway at the load balancer.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 21, wherein the information identifying the selected gateway includes an Internet Protocol address of the selected gateway.

9.   (Cancelled)

10.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~9~~ 22, further comprising:

forwarding the subsequent request to the selected gateway from the load balancer, the subsequent request including the Internet Protocol address of the selected gateway.

11.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

receiving at the load balancer a response to the subsequent request from the selected gateway, the response including the Internet Protocol address of the selected gateway;

forwarding the response to the client terminal from the load balancer.

12.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~1~~ 22, further comprising:

maintaining an association between the client terminal and the selected gateway at the load balancer.

13.   (Cancelled)

14.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~13~~ 27, wherein the information identifying the selected gateway may be a private port number associated with the selected gateway.

15.   (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ apparatus of Claim ~~13~~ 27, wherein the information ~~associated with~~ identifying the selected gateway is an Internet Protocol address of the selected gateway.

16.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~13~~ 27, further comprising:

means for maintaining an association between the client terminal and the selected gateway.

17.   (Cancelled)

18.   (Cancelled)

19.   (Currently Amended)   The apparatus of Claim ~~17~~ 23, wherein the load balancer maintains an association between the client terminal and the selected gateway.

20.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~17~~ 23, wherein the information identifying the selected gateway includes one of a private port number associated with the selected gateway and an Internet Protocol address of the selected gateway.

21.   (New) A method for re-directing a client session, comprising:

receiving a request from a client terminal at a load balancer;

selecting one of a plurality of gateways being managed by the load balancer to process the request;

sending a re-direct message to the client terminal from the load balancer, the re-direct message including information identifying the selected gateway;

receiving at the load balancer from the client terminal a subsequent request associated with the re-direct message, the subsequent request including a private port number associated with the selected gateway; and

translating at the load balancer the private port number associated with the selected gateway to a defined port number of the selected gateway.

22.   (New) A method for re-directing a client session, comprising:

receiving a request from a client terminal at a load balancer;

selecting one of a plurality of gateways being managed by the load balancer to process the request;

sending a re-direct message to the client terminal from the load balancer, the re-direct message including information identifying the selected gateway; and

receiving at the load balancer from the client terminal a subsequent request associated with the re-direct message, the subsequent request including the Internet Protocol address of the selected gateway.

23.   (New) An apparatus for re-directing a client session, comprising:

a load balancer operable to receive an initial request from a client terminal, the load balancer operable to select one of a plurality of gateways managed by the load balancer to process the request, the load balancer operable to send a re-direct message to the client terminal in response to the request, the re-direct message including information identifying the selected gateway;

wherein the load balancer receives a subsequent request from the client terminal, the subsequent request including the information identifying the selected gateway, the load balancer operable to forward the request to the selected gateway.

24.   (New) A method for re-directing a client session, comprising:

receiving a request from a client terminal at a load balancer;

selecting one of a plurality of gateways being managed by the load balancer to process the request;

sending a re-direct message to the client terminal from the load balancer, the re-direct message including information identifying the selected gateway;

receiving at the load balancer from the client terminal a subsequent request associated with the re-direct message, the subsequent request including information identifying the selected gateway; and

forwarding the subsequent request to the selected gateway from the load balancer.

25.   (New) The method of Claim 24, wherein the subsequent request includes an Internet Protocol address of the selected gateway.

26.   (New) The method of Claim 24, wherein the subsequent request includes a private port number of the selected gateway.

27.   (New) An apparatus for re-directing a client session, comprising:

means for receiving a request from a client terminal;

means for selecting one of a plurality of gateways being managed to process the request;

means for sending a re-direct message to the client terminal, the re-direct message including information identifying the selected gateway; and

means for receiving at the load balancer from the client terminal a subsequent request associated with the re-direct message, the subsequent request including the information identifying the selected gateway.